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Buena Vista's Playground. Photo by Katherine Levin

School Playgrounds Get Mixed Reviews

By Robynne Boyd

Amidst the pressure of limited budgets, annual rounds of school closures, and demands to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), playground maintenance has been put on the San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) backburner. Yet many pediatricians believe that unstructured play is an essential building block to becoming a well-adjusted adult. Play, according to youth experts, helps build social skills and confidence, improves problem-solving skills, and boosts health.

"Play is important for social, cognitive, physical and emotional development of children," said David Flanigan, Director of Operations for Project Management for Kaboom, a non-profit organization whose mission is to create high-quality play spaces while building community. "Children can interact with each other, learn problem-solving skills, and develop a sense of belonging," says Flanigan.

Although a comprehensive assessment of the quality of San Francisco's schoolyards hasn't occurred, even a casual survey indicates a range of playground conditions. "Oh they're terrible," exclaimed September Jarrett, Director of Policy and Planning, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families, and parent to a second grader at Miraloma Elementary School. "As a parent, I say look at the concrete wastelands we give our children to play in."

On one end of the spectrum is Willie Brown Academy, a K-8 grade school located in Bayview. The Academy's play area consists of a large asphalt yard with a few dilapidated basketball hoops, a faded painted track, and no play structure. In stark contrast, Dianne Feinstein Elementary School in the Sunset, which opened in September, is an icon for the urban school playground. The large playspace, almost completely covered with rubber matting, has a grass amphitheater at its center, flower gardens around the perimeter, vivid green, yellow, blue and red playground equipment, ADA-accessible equipment, a rubber-matted track, and a full basketball court. Unlike most playgrounds, Dianne Feinstein's terrain varies in texture and contour, including small hills, ramps, grassy areas, and flat surfaces.

Equally inviting is the schoolyard at Bryant Elementary in the Mission. Slides, monkey bars, a climbing wall and fire-pole are freshly painted in bright primary colors. Even the school's walls are vividly painted with murals of children exploring the world through science and art.

Some schools, such as Buena Vista Elementary in Potrero, have improved their play spaces by working with San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department to gain access to a nearby park. Even so, Buena Vista's playground is partially filled with two portable classrooms, and its aging

Showplace Square Planning Workshops to Begin (Again) this Fall

By Lisa Tehrani

The Planning Department's "Eastern Neighborhoods Community Planning Project" was initially launched in 2002 as part of an effort to examine different potential land use patterns, particularly in the Showplace Square area. The planning process will be returning to Potrero Hill this fall to garner residents' feedback on the latest draft of the Showplace Square/Potrero "area plan" and related consultant studies, including the "Public Benefits" and "Socioeconomic Impact" analyses.

The area under examination is on the Hill's northwestern flatlands, defined by Bryant Street to the north, 17th Street to the south, 7th Street to the east and Potrero Avenue to the west. Neighborhood input, most recently in March 2006, resulted in three development scenarios, each with different mixes of residential, commercial and industrial land uses. The Planning Department first issued the three scenarios in 2003, including 25 pages of community concerns about potential land use changes.

Tony Kelly, Potrero Boosters Association President, believes that the fall workshops "have to take up where the last workshops from 2003 left off — with the community's maps for the area, not the Planning Department's version of our maps; with public benefits and infrastructure improvements as part of a real plan for the area; and with a real effort to keep working-class housing and jobs in the area." Kelly explains that the community has expressed concerns about a number of issues — including transportation and housing affordability — that are not addressed in the Department's proposed rezoning options. "Before we start up a new round

of workshops, how about working to address some of the dozens of ignored responses from before?" Kelly said.

The Environmental Impact Report for the rezoning options was supposed to be released last month but is now expected to be completed by October. Kelly believes that one reason for the delay is that transportation planning for the area has yet to be addressed. "That's kind of a big deal, and one that community members across the eastern neighborhoods have been saying for years," Kelly explained. "It's frustrating to have such an obvious crater in the planning process slow things down now."

Rather than present specific rezoning policies — which could alter the eligible uses of existing buildings in the neighborhood — planning staff intend to unveil a draft area plan at the fall workshops. The area plan will include consideration of open space needs, urban design and transportation policies. Planning Department documents distributed in March indicate that the area plan will include a balance between existing and potential businesses, a mix of new housing and neighborhood commercial spaces, and policies controlling building heights.

The March documents also suggested several new zoning districts for Showplace Square. The districts would allow for a mixture of housing, commercial and production, distribution and repair uses. A Design and Showroom District and an Arts and Technology District are proposed around the Design Center and California College of the Arts buildings. Mixed-use housing is planned

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play structure is frequently overcrowded with children.

Buena Vista may be typical of the City's school playgrounds, which frequently consist of asphalt yards that are commonly reduced in size to accommodate portable classrooms. Many school playgrounds double as part-time parking lots, with the potential to spill oil and other hazardous fluids onto the same small places used for intensive play.

Jarrett points out that a well-designed play area can be as important as a high-quality academic curriculum, with the potential to offer different physical and intellectual challenges and experiences. She believes that every school should have space for cooperative, active, and quiet play, a combination of hard and soft surfaces, and areas with shade and sun. It's more common for children to fight or play

inappropriate games when these creative and productive options are lacking, said Jarrett.

David Goldin, SFUSD's Chief Facilities Officer, asserts that Diane Feinstein is

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Publisher's View

To Tell the Truth

By Steven J. Moss

Among my extended family and many of my friends, conveying the literal truth about something is never supposed to get in the way of telling a good story. Even the most mundane activity has the potential to be subjected to enough dramatic hype to push it into fairy tale levels.

A few weeks ago my family and I were at the end of a two week stay in Niger, West Africa, where I was working on a government reform project for the U.S. Treasury Department. Hours before we were supposed to be picked-up for our midnight departure to Paris the flight was cancelled – the plane had broken down in Mali. We were re-scheduled to depart 24-hours later.

The rumor that spread through my family back in the states: we'd missed our flight to Paris, and may be stuck in Niger for several more days, if not a week.

Once at Charles de Gaulle we were subject to the usual spanking machine that the French call their international airport. We deplaned and were placed on a bus, which seemed to drive for many miles in loops and circles past airport buildings, baggage trucks, and runways. We finally arrived at our terminal, but our bus stopped behind another vehicle five feet short of the official exit space. We sat and idled. I called out to the bus driver to open the back doors so we could depart, and, when that didn't work, made a motion to an airport security guard to open the doors, also resulting in nothing. Finally, the vehicle in front of us pulled away, we inched forward to the proper space, and the bus doors opened. I stepped outside to be confronted by the guard, who demanded angrily in Frenglish, "do you think I'm a chauffeur?" The guard and I spent a few moments advancing French-American relations, and departed on similar terms as "Freedom Fries" lovers after the start of the Iraqi War.

My family's rumor: I'd been detained by the French police, and as a result wasn't allowed on the plane home to San Francisco.

Over the years I've grown to understand that my family's embellishments are in part a way to "sell papers." Like the National Enquirer or the New York Post,

it's the attention-grabbing headlines that move product, or, in my family's case, garner interest from others. There's no need to fact-check, since either the hyperbole will ultimately be deflated by the principle players (i.e., me, in the flight home case), or the story will quickly fade as the family news cycle shifts to the next headline.

I've also become aware that news, whether conveyed by my family or a stranger, is always deeply influenced by who's telling the story. While in Niger one afternoon I'd lent my car and driver to my wife, Debbie, 15-year old nephew, Elias, and 5-year old daughter, Sara, who had accompanied me on the trip. We had a mix-up in communication, and they came to pick me up at a government office where I was working, while I'd already caught a ride home. When we finally met-up Debbie said they'd been waiting a half-hour for me at the office. No, it'd only been ten minutes, retorted my nephew. I turned to my driver, Sidi, a level-headed Nigerien, and asked him how long they'd waited. "Fifteen or twenty minutes," he said.

I was tempted to believe Sidi; after all, as a driver he was a professional waiter, accustomed to standing-by as his clients conducted their business. But then I thought about it a bit more. Perhaps in a reaction to my family's more typical hyperbole, Elias' always downplayed things; Debbie, on the other hand, tended towards more expansive story-telling. Sidi had no family stake in things, but his tendency – shared by many of the Nigeriens I met – was toward reinforcing peaceful compromise. Splitting the difference between Elias' and Debbie's assertions, accurate or not, was in perfect keeping with his approach to story-telling.

Sometimes accuracy matters, and sometimes it's more important to hear a good story. As we stumble through life we generally find out where to go when we need accurate and complete information, and who we talk to when we more roundly want infotainment. I'll never know exactly how long my family waited for me in Niger, but I got their messages: Debbie wanted better communication, Elias wanted to demonstrate his loyalty and patience, and Sidi wanted peace. And in this case, that's enough for me.

View on Pets: Pawtrero Bathhouse and Feed Company

By Virginia Donohue

"My life revolves around dogs," says Shireen Nyden. Well, that and her two stores. She even met her future husband when he was shopping for his golden retriever puppies at Pawtrero Bathhouse and Feed Company. They married in the Delancey Street Foundation's courtyard, just steps away from Nyden's new store, South Paw.

Nyden and business partner Suzie Yannes met in 2001 while socializing their dogs at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center. They talked about combining their graphics design and marketing expertise to open a clothing boutique. But pretty soon they shifted their focus to pets.

"Both of our dogs were sick. Suzie's dog, Jackson, was having skin reactions with his food, and my sheltie had had problems her whole life. We were researching how to help their diet and we were having difficulties getting education, whether it be from vets or from other stores," Nyden said. The two decided to examine the market for clothes and pet supplies on Potrero Hill and found "that the demand was definitely greater for a pet supply store in Potrero Hill than it was for a clothing boutique," says Nyden.

"We researched for over a year before we opened Pawtrero," Nyden said. "Our main focus is to provide our customers with as much knowledge and education about food as we possibly can." Yannes and Nyden gather advice from their own reading and consultations with holistic veterinarians. They and their staff are available to help customers develop a diet that works well for their pets.

Customer Colleen Donlon is effusive about Pawtrero. "I love these girls. They saved my dog." Donlon's cavalier King Charles spaniel was having intestinal

problems that several veterinarians couldn't solve. "I was in Pawtrero and one of them said, 'Oh, cavaliers do really well on a raw diet.' In two days he was fine. I was so impressed I've been shopping here ever since."

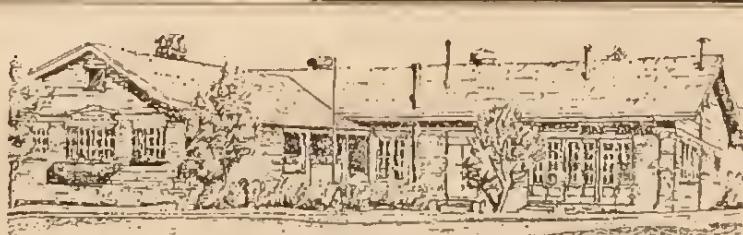
Nyden adds, "Our whole focus is to share this information with people. I can't tell you how many customers we have like Colleen that said once we changed the food it is so incredibly different. Their coat changes, their teeth change, their breath changes, their poo changes, their pee doesn't smell horrific."

In addition to selling high quality foods, treats and pet supplies, both stores have a self-service bathhouse where customers can wash their pets. The stores have a homey feeling, with Yannes and Nyden greeting most of the people and pets who come through the door by name. "Not only is our goal to share this education with people," said Nyden. "We feel like everyone that comes in the door is part of a family."

Yannes says that Potrero and SOMA are "...very different neighborhoods, which is why the stores and the merchandise we carry is different." Southpaw has a wide array of matching collars and leashes and even pretty yellow sundresses that are quite popular with yorkies.

"Potrero Hill," says Nyden, "is earthier. I think they're down to earth people. They generally, we find, are more into camping, for instance. So we have camping gear at Pawtrero, we have tents there, dog booties. We would never be able to sell those dresses in Pawtrero."

"View on Pets" is a new monthly feature. If you have ideas you'd like to share or stories you'd like to see, please send them to editor@potreroview.net



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THE POTRERO VIEW

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Hill Homeless Receive Services Through Project Connect

By Sonja Hyams

"Joseph" was walking in a circle near Esprit Park, wearing headphones, eyes downcast, as nightfall approached one evening in early August. I asked if he knew anyone who didn't have a place to live.

"Me," he said, uncovering his ears. "I'm listening to NPR," he added.

"Joseph" and I both live on Potrero Hill — me in my home on Rhode Island Street, Joseph at his spot under Interstate 280. I'm a volunteer for San Francisco's Project Homeless Connect, and Joseph is exactly the kind of person the program wants to help.

Project Homeless Connect was created in 2004 by Mayor Gavin Newsom to move homeless people off the street to permanent, supportive housing. Every other month, more than 1,000 volunteers partner with city government agencies, nonprofits and private companies to provide a one-stop shop of health and human services for the City's homeless. To date, 18,107 volunteers have provided services to 12,642 homeless clients.

Joseph and I talked for a while. I informed him about Project Homeless Connect's mid-August outreach event, and told him I was writing an article for the View. He asked me not to disclose his real name or "his" spot under the freeway. It's not that he fears robbing by the authorities. "The officer knows me and leaves me alone. But I don't want someone who reads it and hates the homeless to come light me on fire or something," Joseph explained.

His second-hand eyeglasses are unsatisfactory. His SSI papers are incomplete. He needs allergy medication. He didn't think he could afford the rent even if he got housing, but he didn't rule out Project Homeless Connect.

"I know where that building [Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, where the outreach event occurs] is, across from the Library. I've seen people lined up there." After a thoughtful pause, he asked, "Do you think they could tell me how much my rent would be?"

I knew that Joseph might not appear at the August outreach event. While many of San Francisco's homeless have accepted Project Homeless Connect's help, it often takes multiple contacts to build enough trust to lead to accepting assistance. For his part, Joseph gave me a couple of excuses why he might not be able to attend "this time."

"This time" came just a few days later — Project Homeless Connect's 12th outreach event. I was at Bill Graham Auditorium with 1,200 other volunteers. As I was pushing a wheelchair-bound homeless man to the medical sign-in station, there stood Joseph, beaming and waving at me. Joseph told me that Officer Sue Lavin had offered him a ride to Project Homeless Connect that morning. I called Officer Lavin the next day to get the details.

Lavin, San Francisco Police Department

ment's Homeless Outreach Coordinator for the "ballpark to ballpark" detail that includes Potrero Hill, said she had found Joseph that morning sleeping on the ground at 23rd and Iowa streets. "I'd never seen him before. I asked if he knew about Project Homeless Connect, and he said 'yes, is it today?' I said to jump in the back of my car and I'd take him. He said, 'I need to pack up my stuff and put it in my locker. I know where it is and I have a bus pass.'"

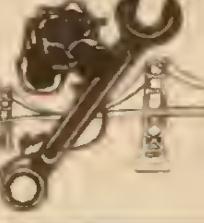
"I told him to have the lieutenant at the front door page me when he arrived, and I'd take him around. At about 10 a.m., he came. I went to extra lengths for him, because he had followed through." By the end of the day, Officer Lavin had placed Joseph and two other homeless persons in transitional housing, where each will have a private room with a key and be in line for permanent housing. Lavin said she has a good sense of who will drop out of the program and who will stick with it. "Joseph will stay, I can tell," Officer Lavin predicted.

Bill Phelan, a product specialist for Xerox who lives at 16th and Rhode Island streets, had been bringing a donated copy machine to the Project Homeless Connect events for a year before he and his partner decided to participate as client support volunteers. "The whole community experience is overwhelming, so moving," he said. "They're used to being ignored on the street. Escorting them, you call their name, shake their hand, ask where they are from, and make a little chitchat as you take them to their destination. You know you're making a difference in that five-minute walk, educating them on what's available to them and that it's all in one place. It's really eye-opening."

On August 10, Dogpatch resident Caylie See took a day away from her acupuncture practice to volunteer at her first Project Homeless Connect event, walking the streets with an outreach team. "It was delightful to get to know other volunteers — San Francisco residents, from all different backgrounds, brought together by a common intention and mission," See said. "The street outreach was fantastic, very heartening and endearing. I was reminded of the reciprocity in altruism. I've already been recruiting people for the next event."

According to Officer Lavin, about 300 homeless individuals live in her jurisdiction, mostly in the Potrero Hill and Dogpatch neighborhoods. She said finding housing for people who "have lost their way" has kept her motivated for two years as the area's sole police outreach coordinator. "I got a whole family from 23rd and Illinois into a place on Thanksgiving Eve," she said. "Three little kids and mom and dad in a three-bedroom apartment, with a turkey. That makes it worthwhile."

For more information about Project Homeless Connect, visit www.sfconnect.org.



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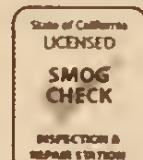
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Cafés Creating Community: A Tradition on the Hill



The gang at Farley's Café. Photo by Katherine Levin.

By Allyse Heartwell

I'll admit that the first time I visited Farley's Café I was annoyed by the lack of wireless internet. What self-respecting café didn't offer Wifi in this day and age? How did they expect to compete? How would I catch-up with my overflowing e-mail inbox? What was I expected to do there?

I sat down with my coffee, fetched an interesting-looking magazine from the diverse offerings on the sale rack (a little surprised that no one demanded I buy it), and soon was drawn into watching the flux of colorful characters coming in and out of the café. Most of them lingered for a long while before moving on. Café customers were reading magazines, writing in notebooks, and simply gazing out the window. On the front sidewalk, nearly 20 people milled about and gathered in small groups. People were talking to one another. I didn't miss my waiting e-mail inbox one bit.

People need such communal spaces, and cafés are uniquely positioned to provide them. As Farley's owner Roger Hillyard put it, "A lot of people live and work in solitude." For many, the morning cup of coffee or after-work treat is the only opportunity they have to socialize with their neighbors.

Hillyard opened Farley's 17 years ago. Back then, he told me, there wasn't much foot traffic along 18th Street. "If I'd done the usual market research stuff, like counting people passing by, this place never would have been opened," he said. Luckily for Potrero Hill, he defied today's practice of strictly following a business plan and went with his gut. "The best that I've done is allowed it to have its own life and direction," said Hillyard. "The atmosphere wasn't contrived in any way. It came about less through specific actions than through plain intention, and other than that I'm not really sure how it happened."

Although Hillyard didn't have a business plan, he did want the café to be a place for community-building, and he's taken specific steps to realize that vision. The lack of wireless internet, for example, is a deliberate omission meant to foster a participatory environment. The artwork on the walls is provided by local artists, as are the off-beat collections—from folk art to traffic signs—displayed in the window. "I really try

to blur the distinction between the staff and the customer," said Hillyard.

From sponsoring book readings, live music, and Halloween pet parades, fun and funky events are another element in Farley's recipe for success. For the café's 15th anniversary, photographer Christopher Irion set up his portable PhotoBooth on the front sidewalk. The resulting 500-portrait art show covered the walls from floor to ceiling, drawing the delighted subjects inside and providing a visual testament to how vibrant a community can be if you just give people a good place to gather.

Up on 20th Street, the staff at Thinkers Café is casual, attentive and smiling. "Preserving owner-operated coffeehouses is so important," said manager Rachel Lobb. "But if they don't focus on quality and service then people will go elsewhere. It's pretty small and intimate, and everyone is facing each other, so often the whole café will break into one discussion," Lobb said. Like Farley's, Thinkers also lines its walls—along with quotes from the world's great thinkers—with work by local artists, and the café tries to buy its ingredients from local sources. "It's important for any business to get involved in the community and buy locally," said Lobb. "For a business like this it's just crucial to reach out to the neighborhood."

Down the hill from Farley's and Thinkers, two-year-old Axis Café is also putting that premise to work. "A lot of people are so busy in their day, yet still pretty lonely," said General Manager Michael Richardson. "This is a response to that." In the Eight Street borderland between residential and industrial zones, Axis has the feel of an oasis in the midst of the hectic urban world.

During a midday visit, businesspeople in suits relaxed by the fireplace reading the newspaper, and on the back patio, tables of teachers from the nearby California College of the Arts gathered over leisurely lunches. I sat down with Bryan Khorge, who was sitting outside next to an array of flowering herbs and writing busily in a notebook. He told me that he works across the street and visits Axis daily. When I asked him why he liked the place, he laughed and gestured to the butterfly alighting on his backpack. "Because of things like that!" he said. "And the food is good. And they remember your name."

LIBRARY NEWS

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Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY COMES ALIVE!

Back by popular demand: Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston, co-authors of SAN FRANCISCO'S POTRERO HILL, return to the library on Saturday, September 9 at 4:00 P.M. to present a slide show history of Potrero Hill. Please come and join us! Copies of their book also will be available for purchase and signing by the authors.

AND SPEAKING OF HISTORY...

If you're curious to learn more about the Hill, hundreds of photos from the Potrero Hill Archives Project are available for browsing in the library. Recent additions to our photo collection on display in the library: "Calegari's Bay View Grocery, 18th and Arkansas, circa 1910" (where Chatz Café is now located) and "1906 Earthquake and Fire" (as residents watch from near 19th and Arkansas). We also have videotaped recordings of the annual "Potrero Hill History Night" programs, as well as interviews on audiotape. Stop by the library and check it out.

CHANGES, CHANGES

Earlier this summer, we said "so long" to staff member Lisa Franks, who for many years worked at our branch library as "her other job." Working here was a labor of love on her part, and she now is freed up to give of her time and energy in other ways. We are grateful for who Lisa is and have sent her off with our best wishes!

KIDS READ!

Each year, the library's Summer Reading Club is designed to encourage children to keep reading during the summer. This year's program, with its theme of "Don't Bug Me...I'm Reading," was very well received by children and their families. Over two hundred fifteen children registered at the Potrero Branch, and of that group, over one hundred children did eight or more hours of reading! Each of these children received a grand prize and also got to post their names on our bulletin board. Stop by and take a look at our colorful wall of names.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN SEPTEMBER

Return engagement: Susan Pena and Miguel Govea bring "Bilingual Songs From Mexico and Other Parts of Latin America" on Thursday, September 21 at 10:30 A.M. This program is a tie-in to San Francisco Public Library's Latino-Hispanic Heritage Celebration Month, made possible by funding from the Friends of the Library. For children of all ages. Come and join us!

There are also other programs for children throughout the month:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, September 7, 14, and 28 at 10:30 A.M. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening storytime on Tuesdays, September 5, 19, and 26 at 7:00 P.M. For ages 3 to 7 years old.

Evening films on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 P.M.: "Curious George Goes to the Hospital" and "The Three Little Pigs." For ages 3 and older.

Please note: All library programs are free. Meeting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

Jensa Woo
Potrero Branch Library Manager

That's the intent, Richardson said, as he pointed out nearly half of the customers in sight as regulars. "It's kind of like Cheers. People like that. They like to be known," he observed. That congenial atmosphere and the café's spacious "living room" layout have brought in a loyal following of regulars, and made it a favorite venue for casual business meetings and community group gatherings—including a parents group, a Burning Man group, and a church congregation.

"People come in, I get to know them, and if I know someone else who's doing something related or similar then I try to connect them," said Assistant Manager Oksana Bobarykin. Unlike Farley's, Axis provides free Wifi, but tries to use high-technology as a way of bolstering the café community. When patrons log onto the café's wireless network, they're greeted by the "Playsite" program, which acts as a sort of electronic breaking of the ice, apprising users of who else is online and letting them introduce themselves and interact.

Axis' community support and outreach efforts have been formalized through a nonprofit organization, which sponsors after-school arts programs and community-based events. Thinkers Café also supports neighborhood schools: they offer a discount to local teachers, and have started a uniform fund for Daniel Webster Elementary School students.

Other Hill cafés offer a range of atmospheres. For quick service and a quieter chat, there's Chats on Arkansas Street. Or for camaraderie that comes with a hearty breakfast, there's Just For You or Sally's. And, if you like your coffee from a reliable chain, there's always Starbucks Coffee. "There's a tradition to this," says Hillyard. "There's a history. Since their beginning, coffeehouses were places for discussion and poets and political ferment." Perhaps it's the caffeine or the sugared pastries that get people talking to their neighbors and strangers alike. But it's certainly the community that's made richer.

Cafés and Coffeehouses On and About Potrero Hill

2 Café
450 Irwin Street at 7th Street.
863-8169

Axis Café
1201 8th Street at 16th Street.
437-2947

Café La Onda
3159 16th Street at Albion St.
431-7516

Caffe Centro
102 South Park Street at
Jack London Alley
882-1500

Caffe Roma
Coffee Roasting Co.
885 Bryant Street at Gilbert Street
296-7662

Caffe Soma
1601 Howard Street at 12th Street.
861-5012

Cafico Café & Bakery
1475 Market Street at 11th Street
552-4449

Capricorn Coffees
353 10th Street at Sheridan Street
621-8500

Chats
301 Arkansas Street at 18th Street
206-0300

Cup of Blues
900 22nd Street at Minnesota Street
826-7045

Farley's
1315 18th Street at Texas Street
648-1545

Just For You
732 22nd Street at 3rd Street
647-3033

Power Up Café
1001 Brannan Street at 9th Street
863-2931

Sally's
300 De Haro Street at 16th Street
626-6006

Starbucks Coffee

350 Rhode Island Street at
16th Street
864-6383

1266 Howard Street, at 9th Street
565-7385

280 King Street at 4th Street
344-0351

490 Brannan Street at 4th Street
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GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 12th, at Sundance Coffee on Third St. at 20th Street from 7-9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, visit www.potrero boosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 415-341-8040 or president@potrero boosters.org. Next meeting: September 26th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit www.potrero hillbiz.com or call 415-341-8949. Next meeting: September 12th, 10 a.m.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion is held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 415-648-6740 for details. Next meeting: September 24th.

Potrero Hill Parents' Association (PHPA) To join the PHPA listserve, send an email to phpa-all@yahoogroups.com.

Potrero Hill, San Francisco is a neighborhood guide and information site for the Potrero Hill community. Find out about events on the Hill and what's going on in the neighborhood. Visit www.potrero hillsf.com.

Residents of the Southeast Sector (ROSES) seeks to improve communication among residents, community-based organizations, and the business community, resolve neighborhood problems, and advocate for issues of concern to residents of the Southeast Sector. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Southeast Community Facility (Alex L. Pitcher, Jr. Community Room), 1800 Oakdale Avenue. For details please call 415-861-0345 or contact Dick Millet at milletdick@yahoo.com. Next meeting: September 7th.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th St. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 415-819-4900. Next meeting: September 18th. Next Volunteer Day: September 23rd.

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Police Blotter

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 4:30 PM, 3rd and 20th: Officers responded to 3rd and 20th on a report of juveniles vandalizing a Muni bus. Inspector Keane and Officer Nastari, who just happened to be in the area, heard the call and went straight to the bus. The driver pointed out a bunch of kids that were leaving out of the back door of the bus. Keane and Nastari gave chase and were able to help arriving Bayview officers detain the whole mob. They also recovered a backpack full of various spray paints. The juveniles were cited for vandalism and conspiracy at Bayview Station.

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 7:55 PM, 1000 block of Wisconsin, Burglary in progress: Bayview Officers responded to report of a burglary in progress. When they arrived, they saw the suspect attempting to pry a metal grill off a window. While the suspect was being arrested, he stated, "I've been arrested for this before. I'll be out in a few hours." The suspect was booked at Bayview Station on attempted burglary and possession of burglary tools.

Saturday, August 12, 2006, 10:00 PM, Kansas and 20th, Auto burglar: A neighbor in the area saw a man casing cars on Kansas Street. She watched until the man stopped at a car and then kicked in the back window. The neighbor called the police and they arrived and found the man still in the car. The neighbor had continued to watch the car until the suspect was taken into custody. Big Kudos to the alert neighbor who was watching out for her neighborhood. The suspect was booked on auto burglary and possession of burglary tools at Bayview Station.

Monday, August 14, 2006 - 12:18 PM - Crack Violation, Parole Violation - Potrero Hill Housing - A parolee will be returning to prison because he violated the terms of his parole by possessing crack cocaine. Officers Rodatos and Cahill saw the man standing in the Potrero Hill Housing Complex. Because the man does not live there he was trespassing on Housing Authority Property. They also knew that he was on parole. They searched the man and found that he had numerous "rocks" of crack cocaine in his possession.



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NONCREDIT CLASSES

Course	Days	Times	Room
Basic Auto Maintenance	MW	6:30-9:30 P.M.	114
Communication for Construction	MW	2-4:30 P.M.	TBA
Communication for Janitors	Sat	8 A.M.-1 P.M.	107
Construction Trades (8/16-9/27)	MW	8 A.M.-12 NOON	256
Construction Trades (8/16-9/27)	MW	12:30-2:30 P.M.	256
Construction Trades (11/15-12/20)	MW	8 A.M.-12 NOON	256
Construction Trades (11/15-12/20)	MW	12:30-2:30 P.M.	256
Contractor Licensing	MW	6:30-9:30 P.M.	251
Voc ESL on Computer (8/16-12/20)	M-F	9-10:30 A.M.	TBA
Vocational Foundation Skills	TTh	4-6:30 P.M.	223

CREDIT CLASSES

Course	Days	Times	Room
Automotive Mechanics (Intro.)	MTW	8 A.M.-12 NOON	103
Automotive Mechanics (Intro.)	WThF	8 A.M.-12 NOON	115
Automotive Mechanics (Intro.)	WThF	1-5 P.M.	103
Automotive Mechanics (Intro.)	MTWTh	6:30-9:30 P.M.	103
Auto & Manual Transmission	TWTh	8 A.M.-12 NOON	108
Body Repair & Refinishing	MW	6:30-9:30 P.M.	112
Body Repair & Refinishing	TTh	6:30-9:30 P.M.	112
Engine & Transmission	Sat	8 A.M.-1:30 P.M.	115
Fashion Design Portfolio	M	3-4 P.M.	230
Fashion Illustration I	W	12 NOON-5 P.M.	230

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Workshops this Fall

Continued from page 1

along 16th and 17th streets and between Bryant and Townsend streets, and an Employment and Business Development District is slated for various other blocks in the area. Building heights would remain at 40 feet for many blocks, but with a height increase to 45 feet along 16th and 17th streets and from 50 feet to 65 feet north of 16th Street. New open space, streetscape amenities and greenery is proposed along 7th, 16th and 17th streets.

The area plan's public infrastructure and amenities component will be based on the Public Benefits Analysis being developed by Seifel Consulting. The Department initiated the study in response to community concerns about the impact new housing will have on public infrastructure. Seifel is examining 25 public amenities and services – such as fire stations, parks and schools – and developing a benchmark from which to determine adequate service levels for each of the three different development scenarios.

Kelly strongly supports the public benefits program: "The Citywide Action Plan from 2002 acknowledges that we do not have adequate infrastructure, transit service, open space, shops or services in the City's industrial areas to create successful neighborhoods." He adds, "The Department also has documents from 2002 and 2003 that show conclusively that industrial jobs are valuable to the City's economy, diversity and livability, and that the loss of these jobs in any rezoning of the eastern neighborhoods would be a significant and unacceptable social cost."

"Part of the consultant's work will be to identify methods of implementing public benefit programs and to make

recommendations as to what programs the City should consider pursuing," the Planning Department's Jasper Rubin explained. "Increased development potential that may result from rezoning, for instance, will not be enough to support all of the possible public benefits identified as important," he said. This is because development fee revenues may not be sufficient to pay for the high-cost land needed to fulfill public amenity goals [See "San Francisco Has Insufficient Green to Maintain Green Space," The Potrero View, July 2006]. Public infrastructure that can't be financed by development fees would have to be paid for through other means, such as by having city departments set aside existing funds for those programs. The Planning Department is interested in hearing from community residents on how best to prioritize the services and amenities it wants at the upcoming workshops.

Kelly believes that the Planning Department is "finally coming back around to the notion that 'community-based planning' has to be done with the community, especially if they expect to gain public support for any rezoning. In our neighborhood, that means addressing necessary infrastructure improvements, public benefits, more affordable housing and industrial protection." Rubin stated, "Everyone should be ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work, and to be prepared to think comprehensively and realistically about the future of the neighborhood."

Potrero Hill residents are encouraged to review the Planning Department's website to find out workshop dates, obtain background information, and review the consultant's analyses: http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=25288.

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A View from the Past



Eighty-some years ago, Helen Morgan celebrated her 10th birthday in the backyard of 325-327 Mississippi Street. Helen is in the front row, looking proud of her new life-size baby doll. Under one of those hats is Margaret Verter, who donated this photo to the Potrero Hill Archives Project and whose grandparents lived on Irish Hill in the 1880s.

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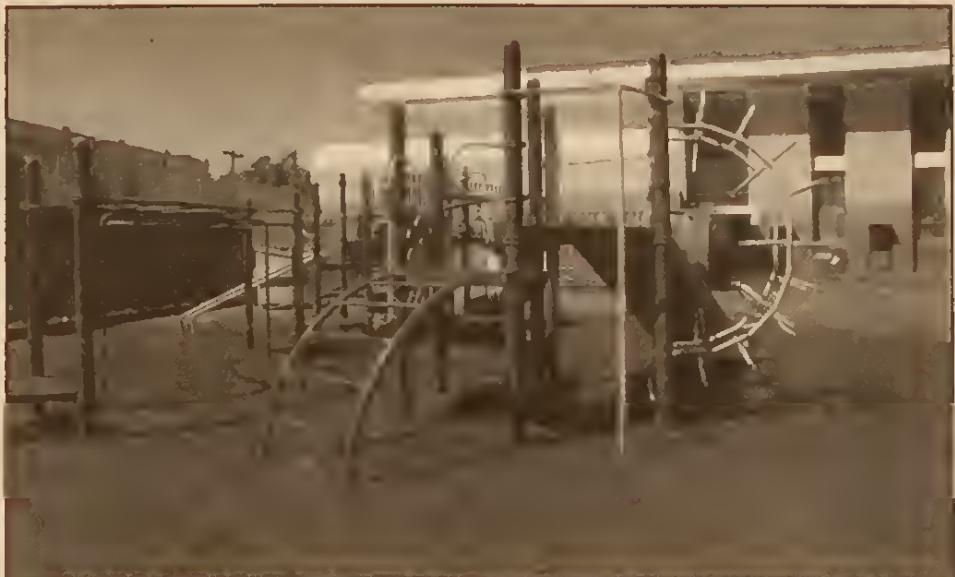


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Starr King's Playground. Photo by Katherine Levin

Mixed Reviews

Continued from page 1

indicative of the direction school grounds are headed. "It's a good example of what we're trying to do – create play spaces that are creative, safe and environmentally correct." Goldin explained that playground funding comes from a "mixed bag," including bonds, miscellaneous City money, and developer fees. However, the District doesn't have the resources to offer every child a state-of-the-art play space. And even maintaining existing school grounds is challenging: 14 gardeners are responsible for maintaining the City's 120 schools and 20 daycare centers.

"Proposition 13 in the 1970's dramatically changed how much funding school districts and local governments received from property tax – and it's not getting any easier," explained Goldin, "So we're trying to install equipment that will last, is ADA compliant, chemically and environmentally safe, and dispose of equipment when it's identified as a hazard or problem."

To address the funding gap schools are tapping other resources. In 2005 Miraloma Elementary School, John McLaren Child Development Center and Sunnyside

Elementary School each received a \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant, awarded through the Mayor's Office of Community Development. The grants are targeted towards refurbishing school facilities in lower income neighborhoods that urgently need facility upgrades. "[Miraloma] is just finishing the first tier, of a three tier renovation," said Jarrett. Three more elementary schoolyards will be revamped this year through the grant program: Frank McCoppin and Thomas Starr King will receive new play structures, and Monroe's play structure will be expanded and improved.

"It's a dual benefit, said Janet Gomes, Director of Corps Member Services at San Francisco Conservation Corps. "The Conservation Corps uses the grant money to employ and train young people...[to provide] playground improvements."

Another unexpected resource has been the Proposition A bond, which was passed in 2003 to provide funds to help schools become ADA compliant. The San Francisco Green School Yard Alliance successfully advocated that a small percentage of the bond funds, totaling \$2 million, be invested in greening 16 elementary schoolyards. Each school, selected based on need and so as to insure equal fund distribution across the City, received approximately \$100,000.

"Instead of telling the schools what to do with the [Proposition A] money, we ask them to mastermind the sort of schoolyard they'd like," said Arden Bucklin, SFUSD's

Director of Educational Gardens, "Some schools want water features, others want raised beds, so schools have to create a committee, meet with landscape architects, and the bond people."

Bucklin says that the green schoolyard program helps schools learn how to raise money for their playgrounds. Although the process may be daunting at first, Bucklin believes the program breeds long-term success and stewardship. "There are tremendous benefits to having kids become a steward to a bit of land," said Bucklin, "It provides children the opportunity to take care of something and have an experience with the natural world. It's a very rich and important experience, particularly for kids in underserved neighborhoods."

Because of scarce resources schools have to incorporate a maintenance plan into their green schoolyards. Bucklin believes the best strategy is to rely on the kids. "It's more difficult to get teachers to understand that the outdoors are good learning environments than it is to get children excited about weeding."

According to Sharon Danks, Environmental Planner and EcoSchool Consultant, green schoolyards provide the diverse learning platform so important for healthy development. "They engage kids who have different learning styles - it allows them to learn in a more casual context." Danks added that there are direct educational benefits as well, including opportunities for nutrition education, nurturing ecologically literate adults, and providing students with a sense of pride in the place they live. "It's one of the only areas where kids can take charge," Danks concluded.

In July the San Francisco School Board voted to put a bond proposal on the November ballot to raise another \$450 million for building maintenance and ADA compliance. If passed, the Green Schoolyard Alliance hopes to once again use some of the funds to green 50 more schoolyards. "I think 2006 is a done deal, unless something happens between now and when the bond is filed," said Bucklin, "Historically San Francisco is supportive of school bonds - it's very encouraging. And although ADA isn't very sexy, green schoolyards are!"

According to Carl Barnes, President of the Second District of the California State PTA, "In this day and age, you'd do well to encourage as much physical activity as possible." If an inviting playground is the best incentive to accomplish that goal, then passage of the 2006 school facility bond may bring San Francisco schools one step closer to offering quality play.

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by Angela Rubin &
Marianne Schier

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However, he adds, "the buyer must beware. Today's real estate boom has not evenly spread its riches throughout America.... Some regions boom while others lag. Real estate is first and foremost local."

Good advice, to say the least. We read national statistics about the real estate market very nearly daily in our newspapers, but their relevance is only tangential. What matters is what is happening in the real estate markets where you live and invest. And for that information, local real estate professionals can be far more accurate and helpful than any article in The Wall Street Journal. So to keep in touch with what is happening in our local market, call Angela or Marianne at 447-6210 or 345-3169.

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September

September 2

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September 3

Music: Darket

Sunday afternoon concert series with Darket performing electro-jazz-funk-dub tunes, 3 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

September 8

Music: Japanese New Music Festival

Extreme Japanese psych rockers Acid Mothers Temple are regulars at BOTH, but tonight they join the Ruins and play individually and together as 7 acts. Expect highly unusual (and perhaps not always listenable) music, including one act that uses everyday commodities as percussion and shouts brand names over the "songs," as well as "cosmic chemical sounds that embrace a multidimensional chaos based upon the principles of minimalism, an anarchistic warping of the time axis, and ultra-accelerated revolving of time particles." How's that for \$10? Bottom of the Hill, www.bottomofthehill.com

September 9

Music: Power to the Peaceful

Last year, it was one of the most glorious days in the city: gorgeous weather, good vibes, great music and that "San Francisco feeling," where you sense that an event like this couldn't happen in any other place on Earth. This year's theme is "Be Peace Now," and performers include festival organizer Michael Franti and Spearhead, Blackalicious, New Monsoon, Los Mocosos, and more. Speedway Meadow, Golden Gate Park. www.powertothepeaceful.org

September 10

Art Reception: Mark Faignebaum

Mixed media works, 1-3 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

Music: The Silver Jews

David Berman and Co. roll-in for their first San Francisco show, where they'll unveil their untainted country rock for a no-doubt eager crowd. Mezzanine, www.mezzaninesf.com

September 14

Poetry Reading: "From the Womb to the World"

7 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

September 15

Music: Little Roger & the Goosebumps

8 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

September 16

Film: Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema

See Sept. 2 for event description. Tonight's event is at the Bernal Playground, Jarboe and Moultrie Streets (behind the Bernal Heights library). Meet the Filmmakers will be held at Liberty Café Bakery, 410 Tunnel Ave.

Cortland Avenue, beginning at 6 p.m.

September 24

Theater: Big Love

It's runaway brides galore in this tale of 50 women who've fled their husbands-to-be and find themselves marooned on the shores of Italy. From there, this comedy of the sexes forays into issues of sexuality, justice, gender roles, revenge, and more. Winner of an Obie award in 2002, and directed by FoolsFURY company member Laley Lippard. At the Traveling Jewish Theater (470 Florida Street), through October 21.

September 17

Music: Presidents Breakfast

Sunday afternoon concert series, 3 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

September 19

Music: Radio Soulwax

Belgian mash-up kings 2 Many DJs (aka Soulwax) mix musical chocolate and peanut butter to come up with delightful cut-and-paste concoctions. Imagine Salt-n-Pepa taking on the Stooges, or Destiny's Child dueting with 10cc, and you get the idea. Mezzanine, www.mezzaninesf.com

September 21

Music: Serena-Maneesh

Get your drone on as Norway's Serena-Maneesh approximate the sludgy spiraling sounds of seminal shoe gazer acts Spacemen 3 and My Bloody Valentine. With Midnight Movies, Woven Hand, and the Evangelicals. Bottom of the Hill, www.bottomofthehill.com

September 26

Music: Junior Boys

These Canadians bring some fey tenderness to electronic music, warming-up the blips and bleeps with wistful vocals and daydreamers' sighs. And yet there are times when the tunes muscle their way onto the dance floor and refuse to budge. Bottom of the Hill, www.bottomofthehill.com

September 29

Music: Little Roger & the Goosebumps

8 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street, www.farleyscoffee.com

September 30

Music: The Gossip

"Gossip is young + full of blood." This is how the punk trio refers to itself, and it's dead-on for a band following the charge of elders like the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Le Tigre, Sonic Youth, and Sleater Kinney. Bottom of the Hill, www.bottomofthehill.com. Also on 10/1.

Film: Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema

See Sept. 2 for event description. Tonight's event is at St. Mary's Park, Murray & Justin Drive (on the playing fields). Meet the Filmmakers begins at 6 p.m.



The Ghana Youth Photo Project

In October 2005 San Francisco Camerawork's youth mentoring program First Exposures sponsored mentor Jamie Lloyd's trip to West Africa to bring a photography program to 11 youths in Ghana's capital city of Accra. The children not only learned a new skill but were given the opportunity to visually represent their country, culture, and religion through photographic images. This exhibition is the culmination of more than 200 rolls of film shot by the students in Ghana.

Exhibition dates: August 25 - December 31, 2006

Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 6:00 PM.

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Potrero Hill Open Studios

Weekend 1: October 7th & 8th

San Francisco Open Studios is a month-long, free-to-the-public event that takes place over four weekends in October. The first weekend will take place in Potrero Hill from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.SFOpenStudios.com or call (415) 861-9838.

Spotlight on a Potrero Hill Artist

Hill resident Nancy Rodger will be an Open Studios participant for the fourth year (438 Arkansas Street; 7 on the map). Nancy has been a professional artist for more than 25-years and has exhibited at Goat Hill Pizza and Thinkers Café as well as other venues. More of Nancy's work can be seen at www.blueberrydogs.com and www.nancyrodger.com.



Potrero Hill Open Studios Map & Artist Listing

Blake Carroll 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 a)	Marti McKee Pier 70, Noonan Building (6 d)
Alice Gibbons 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 b)	Sarah Newton Pier 70, Noonan Building (6 e)
Rachel Hornaday 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 c)	Adele Louise Shaw 340 Bryant Street (6 f)
Karn Knutson 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 d)	Marsha Giegerich Torkelson Pier 70, Noonan Bldg (6 g)
Ling Liu 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 e)	Nancy Rodger 438 Arkansas Street (7)
Allison Miller 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 f)	Erin Carney 298 Texas Street #8 (8)
Gloria Morales 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 g)	Anita Benjamin 341 Mississippi Street (9 a)
Liz Saintsing 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 h)	Clare Metague 341 Mississippi Street (9 b)
Judah Thomas 2565 3rd Street, # 305 (3 i)	Rosie Powell 223 Mississippi St (10)
Zanne Christensen 2325 3rd St. #216 (4 a)	Raymond Difley 603 Tennessee Street (11 a)
Jeffrey Galinson 2325 3rd Street #429 (4 b)	Petra Duffoo 603 Tennessee (11 b)
Mark Faigenbaum 611 Texas St. (5 a)	Kate Nichols 603 Tennessee (11 c)
Dominique Bayart 2325 3rd Street #207 (5 b)	David Goldenberg 246 Texas Street (12 a)
Suzy Barnard Pier 70, Noonan Building (6 a)	Nicolo Sertorio 246 Texas St. (12 b)
Tony Bellaver Pier 70, Noonan Building (6 b)	Will Bullas 1020 Mariposa Street (13)
Mary V. Marsh Pier 70, Noonan Building (6 c)	Anna Poole The Ramp, 855 Terry Francois Street (14)

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Deli Won't Celebrate its 30-Year Anniversary



Photo of Klein's Deli by Katherine Levin.

By Robynne Boyd and Nadine Toren

Twenty-seven years ago Deborah Klein opened Klein's Deli on 20th and Connecticut streets. Klein launched the deli in the midst of a "foodie movement" in which San Francisco restaurants and cafes were shifting their focus from serving middle-class families to "young urban professionals." In a neighborhood that had few restaurants, Klein wanted to buck the prevailing trend, and create an eatery that attracted a diverse mix of people. Klein's quickly became a

popular local hang-out.

Although the success of this gregarious deli is apparent today, its future was far from assured when Klein's first opened. The space had been previously occupied by T&M Meats, but had been vacant for some time. Klein recalls having to persuade the landlord, Charlie Peterson, a well-known realtor, to rent her the space. "It took a lot to convince the landlord to lease to a 26-year-old lesbian. He even tried to prevent me from naming the sandwiches after women!" Peterson eventually agreed to rent

the property to Klein, and in the fall of 1979 the ex-meat company became Klein's Deli. Today the sandwiches are identified by such celebrated names as the Kahlo, Mercedes, Piaf, or Minnie Mouse.

Soon after Klein's opened, Avery McGinn, a high school English teacher from Portland, answered a "help wanted" sign Klein posted. Klein later sold the deli to McGinn, explaining, "In 1989, I went back to college for my doctorate. We switched roles in effect; I became the teacher and she became the restaurateur."

Timberly Hughes, who lives above the deli with her husband and toddler son, purchased the building that houses the restaurant in 1999. Hughes says the deli's rent hadn't increased in a dozen years, and "I could not afford to let them keep 12-year-old rent." Over the past two years, Hughes and McGinn tried to negotiate an acceptable lease for both parties, with McGinn initially agreeing to pay significantly higher rent. However, Hughes says, "They were just not willing to pay what we needed, given that our mortgage on the property, which is primarily our home, had increased substantially since 1999" due to the need to refinance.

McGinn says she recognized the need for a rent increase, but Hughes wanted double what she was currently paying. Agreeing to pay such a substantial rent hike "simply wasn't a wise business decision."

McGinn readily admits that it's difficult to face the deli's closure. "I feel deeply connected to the community that we have served and grown with for the past 27 years," she said. "We've kept folks well fed, made them feel at home and given them a place to gather and connect with each other." McGinn also laments that the deli's fate is part of a larger unfolding story of the demise of independently-owned

enterprises in San Francisco. As commercial rents steadily increase, driving out long-standing businesses, the City's neighborhoods are losing their vibrant community feel. McGinn noted, however, that, "I very much want to close this chapter in a gracious, positive way - we've had a great business, I love the community and feel the communities love for us."

"It's sad," said Kirk Fruehling, who commonly drives from Mission Dolores with friends to dine at Klein's. "I don't know how long the deli's been here, but it seems like an institution to us." Fruehling's friend, Doug Powell nodded in agreement adding, "It's places like this that build a community."

Melanie Vigh, a "jack of all trades" at Klein's, speculates that the deli's closure will change the neighborhood's dynamics. "I think people will protest the new thing, but eventually it will wear off," she said.

Hughes says she and her family plan to open an organic food store in the deli space early next year. "We are excited to bring something new to the neighborhood that is really community based, owned by people who live here on Potrero Hill."

Klein's Deli will continue to operate at its two locations at the San Francisco Airport, where, according to McGinn, they are "very well appreciated by the airport community." (McGinn adds, "And yes, there is an airport community.") McGinn is also looking for other commercial spaces in Potrero Hill to relocate to.

Deborah Klein is distressed about the closure of the 20th Street site. "From a business perspective, it is pure folly to force out a very popular neighborhood deli in order to open another deli. From a social perspective, it is simply wrong. And from my heart's perspective, it just hurts," says Klein.

Paid Advertisement

Klein's Deli

501 Connecticut Street @ 20th Street

Dear Neighbors, Customers and Friends,

It has been a joy and a pleasure to serve the Potrero Hill Community over the past 27 years and it is with sadness that I announce that Klein's will no longer be operating at this location after December 31, 2006. Unfortunately, I was unable to accept the new lease presented by the landlord. The terms would not have allowed me to maintain my commitment to providing Klein's employees with a decent living wage, health insurance, and a pension plan, while maintaining reasonable prices for our customers.

I am letting you know now in order to cherish our last four months at this location as we want to savor, as well as celebrate, our relationship with this wonderful community. We, at Klein's, love this neighborhood that we have come to feel an integral part of, a neighborhood that we would like to continue to serve. With that in mind, I invite all of you to keep an eye out for a possible new location for Klein's in the area. Ideally, I would like a storefront. I will also be looking at shared commercial kitchens, with space for an office, so that we can service our locations at SFO and continue to offer catering locally.

In December we will be celebrating our long-term relationship with the community by hosting a party with live music, food, wine, and lots of hugging. I hope you'll be here. I'll let you know when we've selected a date for the party.

Each of us at Klein's will surely miss our connection with you here. For now, we look forward to serving you at this location until the end of this year, and hopefully in a nearby location in the New Year.

I want to personally express my gratitude to this remarkable community for appreciating us and making Klein's thrive. It has been a wonderful "home" for the past 27 years.

I thank you.

Avery McGinn

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New Kids on the Block & Other Family News

The Thacher family celebrated three birthdays with a big hash at Golden Gate Park on August 12. Gavin turned two on July 13, Audrey turned one on August 1 and Cal will turn four on September 22.

Happy birthday to Jasper Jackson Liles, who turns six on September 21. Jasper will be starting kindergarten this year at Leonard Flynn Elementary School. He's a graduate of the Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School.

The karate class at Jackson Park Recreational Center, Grospé Shorin-ji Ryu Karate, will be competing in the "2006 Summer Rumble" at Solano County Fairgrounds on September 16.

Happy birthday to Sadie Kiyoko Magnawa Crawford, who turns one on September 9. Sadie took her first steps August 19. "Wahoo!" say her proud parents, Daphne Magnawa and David Crawford.

Andrea Everitt and Holly Boland proudly announce the birth of Collin Bernard Everitt-Boland, on August 2. He arrived three and a half weeks early and weighed in at 5 lbs. 5 oz.

This summer Josy Hicks Jablons, age eleven, sang with the San Francisco Symphony's Lord of the Rings production. She will be singing, along with 11 other girls from the San Francisco Girl's Chorus, with the San Francisco Opera's production of Carmen this fall.

This summer Emmy Hicks Jablons, age seven, caught and released a piranha while vacationing in Peru with her family.

Happy third birthday to Isla, August 31, from proud parents Natalie and Brian.

Happy parents Antje Kann and David Maltz, and big sister Amelie, welcomed new baby boy Marlon Sebastian Maltz on July 5.

Happy birthday to the Morgan sisters. Sydney Morgan turned three on July 2 and her sister Maggie Morgan turned six on August 15. Sydney started preschool at Marin Day School/Hills Plaza on August 1 and Maggie starts first grade at Live Oak School on September 6.

Amy and Jeremy Wolf welcomed their baby boy Toby James Wolf on July 3. Weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz., he was born "sunny side up" and was delivered in four hours! "Everyone's healthy," says Jeremy.

The Mietelski Family – mom Macey, dad Stephen, big brother Oscar and dog Weldon – welcomed a new baby girl. Phebe Victoria Mietelski was born on June 29. She was 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20.5 inches long, with lots of brown hair. "She's perfect and beautiful and we're so happy she's here!" says Macey.

Melissa and Alec Glorieux, along with dog Suki and cat LMNO, welcomed baby boy Wylie Courage Glorieux on June 13. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.

If you'd like to see your child's birth, birthday, adoption, graduation, christening, bat/bar mitzvah, athletic win, academic honor, or other announcement listed here, email melissa@gracecreative.net by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please include all pertinent information such as name, date, event and anything else you'd like to add.

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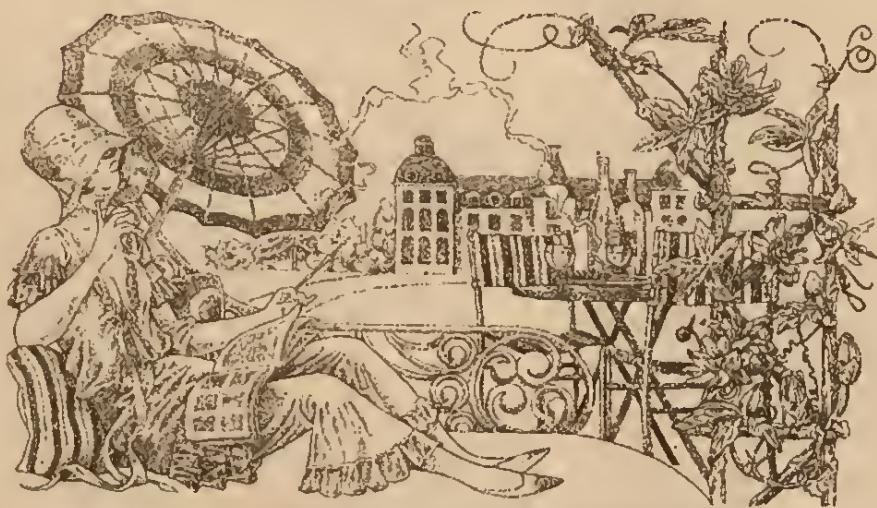
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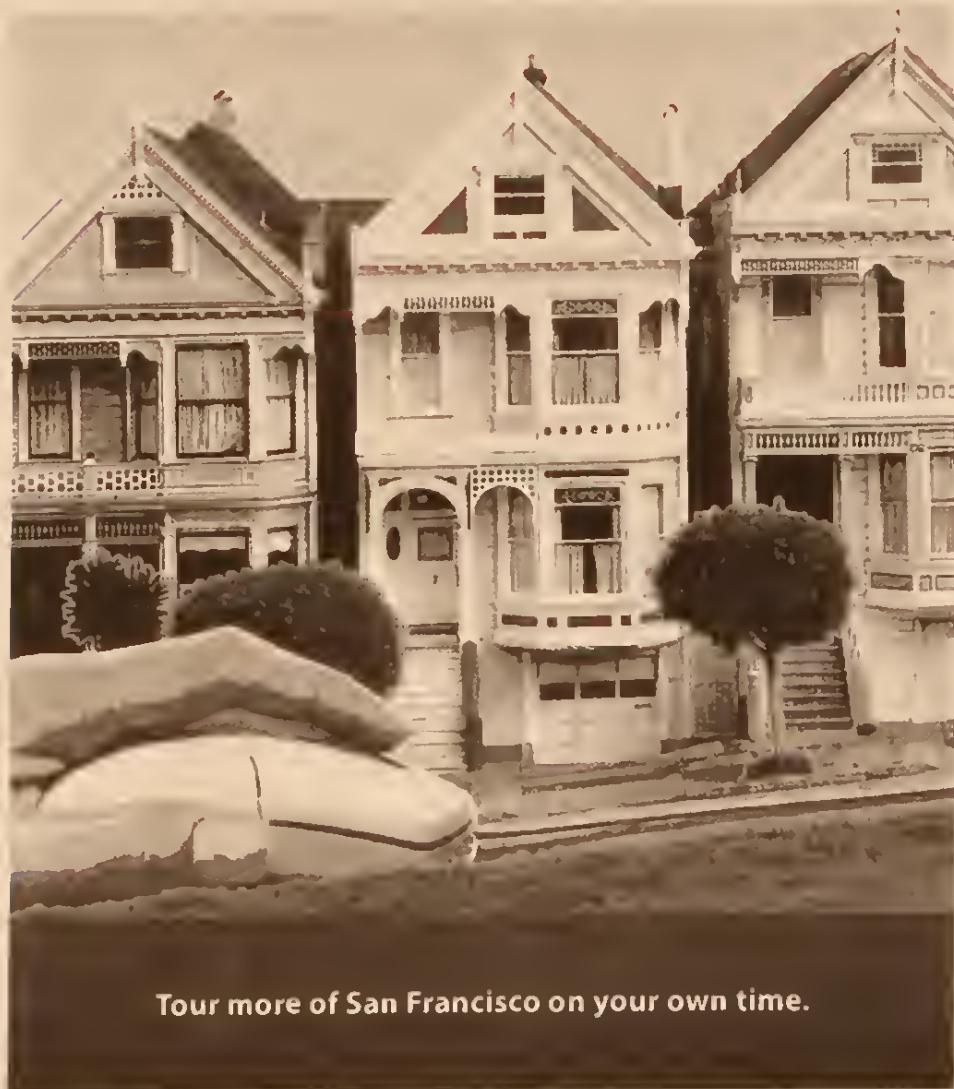
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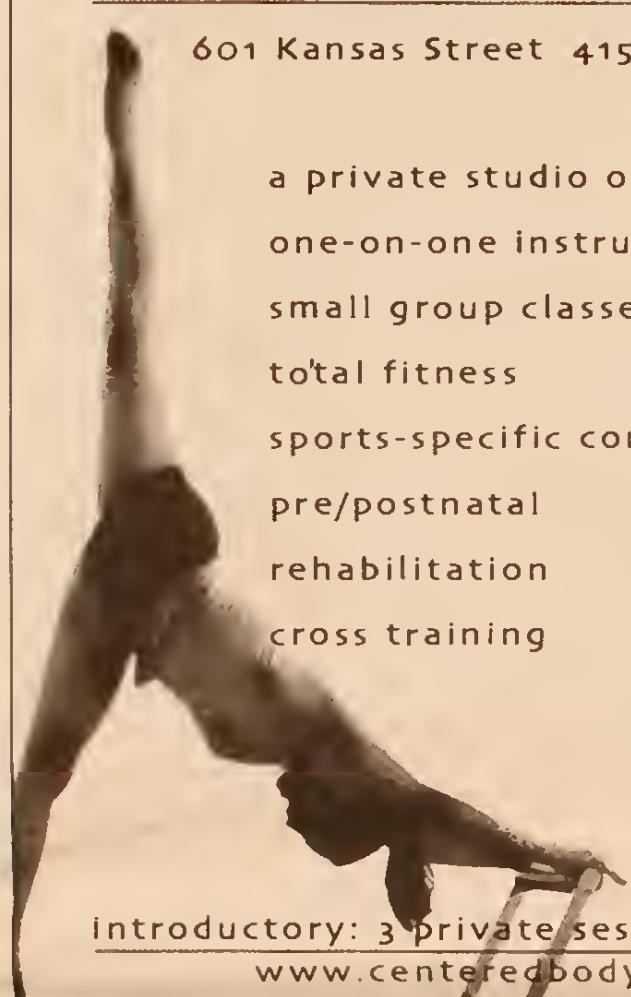
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Potrero Hill Festival 2006 OCTOBER 14 - SAVE THE DATE

Plans are heating up for the 16th Annual Potrero Hill Festival, Saturday, October 14, 10a.m. to 5p.m.

The day's festivities begin at 9 a.m. with an "All You Can Eat" Pancake breakfast featuring live music performed by the Apollo Jazz Group at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. The outdoor Festival, on Southern Heights between Rhode Island and Carolina streets, features food, live music, dance and an eclectic mix of art, jewelry, crafts, and clothing vendors. A special children's area will be available for all day fun including the ever popular "Art in the Park", an interactive art sanctuary where children can make their own creations.

Called the "Little Festival with a View", the Potrero Hill Festival has a true neighborhood feel and definitely kid friendly which perhaps distinguishes it from all others.

Vendor space is still available; For applications and more information Call 415-826-8080.

The Festival is produced by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, a non-profit community center, and is partially funded by the San Francisco Arts Commission.



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Community Activities

POTRERO HILL WALKERS: Small group of women looking for additional women to walk with them weekday mornings from 6:00 to 7:00 am on

Potrero Hill. If you are interested, please call Ruth at (415) 738-0420.

POTRERO HILL BOOK CLUB: We are looking for additional women to join our book club. We meet the first Tuesday evening of every month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Ruth at (415) 738-0420.

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ALEMANY FARMER'S MARKET TOUR 9/23/06 Join Slow Food San Francisco and La Coccina as we tour SF's oldest farmer's market. Tour and tasting of Mexico City stall food and Peruvian coffee. 10:00 AM at 100 Alemayn. www.slowfoodsf.com

DIVORCED FATHERS NETWORK MEETINGS Peer support group dedicated to improving the lives of children, fathers and mothers by supporting engaged, effective shared parenting during and after divorce. Meetings held every Monday 7pm to 8pm at Mission Bay Community Church 1040 Mariposa St @ Pennsylvania. Call 415-850-4304 for more info or just show up. Moms welcome too. BECAUSE CHILDREN LOVE BOTH THEIR PARENTS

Computer/Phone Services

CHARLIE THE PHONE GUY: Residence/business/home office wiring, FAX/modem/DSL. Dead jacks made live! Free estimates. On-time appointments. (415) 641-8410. charlie@sphereguy.com

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Kent@allwired.net 468-9400.

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END HOMEWORK HASSLES: Family time is better spent. Call Jane Radcliffe, (415) 586-4577 or visit www.mystudybuddy.org

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GOURMET VEGETARIAN CUISINE: Delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol & salt. Treat yourself right! Gift cert. avail. For menus, call Jane (415) 826-2133, www.pealcuisine.com

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COMPLETE GARDEN CARE I will help your garden evolve into a natural paradise. Maintenance, renovation, organic soil building. California native plants a specialty. Call Jeannine Zenti at 415-642-0246

GROWSGREEN LANDSCAPE DESIGN offers a custom design for your garden. Featured designer on HGTV. www.growsgreen.com (415) 336-9829.

URBAN GARDEN DESIGN. Create an oasis of beauty and enjoyment using California native plants and ecologically sound landscape design. Peigi Duvall, (650) 704-3926. www.indigdesign.com.

GARDENING Design, installation, irrigation, some maintenance, plant suggestions. Refs. Tom (415) 255-6225

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